

Samuel: A Case Study in God's Call

1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a

Additional Notes

Identifying the key idea – the unifying truth – of this passage... (Hint: Again repetition is the key identifying the key idea of this passage!) In this passage it appears 5 times.

After you come to Christ, it isn't long before you're convinced that God has his hand on your life. You believe He has a place for you in His Kingdom, something for you to do, a place for your to fill. Your ministry or calling may not be fully defined or refined yet, but somehow you know you have one.

The task of leaders in the church is to provide opportunities for you discover your gifts, listen for the voice of God calling you to your place of service, give your opportunities to try your hand at something that fits you, and help you develop your ministry.

1. What was the situation at the time that led to what this passage teaches? (3:1 etc.)

A _____ crisis in the nation? (vs. 1)

What role did Samuel's parents play?

What role did Eli play in Samuel's life?

What do you think was the significance of the opportunity Samuel was given (an unusual opportunity)?

2. The Call of God (3:2-9)

- What would you say were the qualities of the kind of person God called (i.e. young Samuel)?

- What would you say was the process Samuel went through to hear and recognize God's voice and God's call?

3. Samuel... Called, Now Used by God the 1st Time (3:10-18)

- How do you think it felt for Samuel? Clues in the text...

- Do you remember what it was like the first time God used you?

4. God's Calling Confirmed – Finding Your Place in the Lord's Work (3:19-41a)

Note the significance of these statements in Scripture... What do think the significance is for responding to the call of God?"

- ✓ "The Lord was with Samuel" (vs. 19a)

- ✓ "And let none of his words fall to the ground" (19b)

- ✓ "And all of Israel ... knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the Lord" (vs. 20)

- ✓ "The Lord continued to appear to Samuel" (vs. 21)

- ✓ "And the word of Samuel came to all Israel" (4:1a)

Response...

- ✓ Have you experienced the call of God personally... Describe your experience...

- ✓ What about your children / your grandchildren... What is your role in affirming and nurturing their call?

- ✓ Have you observed God gifting and calling someone else? What can you do to help them respond and develop their calling?